

Amendments to the Drawings:

Corrected drawing sheets 1 and 3 are enclosed with this paper. On sheet 1, in Figs. 1 and 2, reference characters 36 and 36' have been deleted. Reference character 11A was added to Fig. 3.

Paragraph 0038 of the specification is amended to reflect the addition of reference character 11A. On sheet 3 in Fig. 9, reference character 66' is deleted. Reference character 45 shown in Fig. 9 has been added to paragraph 0040 of the specification.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:

In the most recent office action, the examiner objected to the drawings finding that:

1) The drawings include reference characters 36', 45 and 66' not mentioned in the specification.

2) The reference character 14 has been used to designate both the fork head and a typical fork handle.

3) Reference character 36 has been used to designate both a blade edge and a tine tip.

The drawings and specification have been corrected to address the above noted informalities.

Rejections under 35 USC 112:

Claims 19-21 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph for using limitations not found in the original disclosure.

Rejections under 35 USC 103(a):

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent D387,956 by Gagnon et al. and US Patent D203,072 by Centa. Claims 20 and 21 were rejected 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent D387,956 by Gagnon et al., US Patent D203,072 by Centa, and US Patent 3,121,951 by Green.

In this amendment, applicant has amended claim 19 to include language drawn from the detailed description. Accordingly, applicant believes he has addressed the section 112 rejection by including only limitations supported by the detailed specification.

Applicant respectfully submits Centa does not teach at two outer tines and at least one inner tine as given in claim 19 as amended above. Applicant respectfully submits Cagnon et al do not teach a structure where:

"the height of the central handle shaft increased at the point where the fork head is joined to the shaft thereby causing the top side of the shaft to be raised upwards and the bottom side of the shaft to protrude downwards and such that the width of the shaft is not significantly wider thereby presenting opposing flat areas which present finger platforms, each finger platform including opposite flattened surfaces bounded by the top side and the bottom side of the shaft adjacent to the fork head and located along the length of the central handle shaft where the central handle shaft is joined to the fork head"

as set forth in claim 19 as revised above. Further, applicant submits that is not suggested by either Gagnon or Centa to combine their respective structures to obtain an improved universal fork having the properties and advantages of the present improved universal fork. In short, applicant submits that with the above extensive amendment of claim 19, claim 19 is no longer unpatentable in view of Cagnon and Centa.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 19, as amended, is in proper form and defines allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claims depending from claim 19, namely

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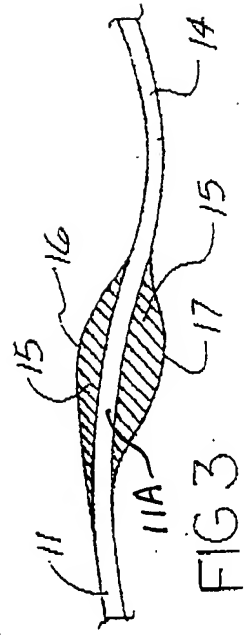
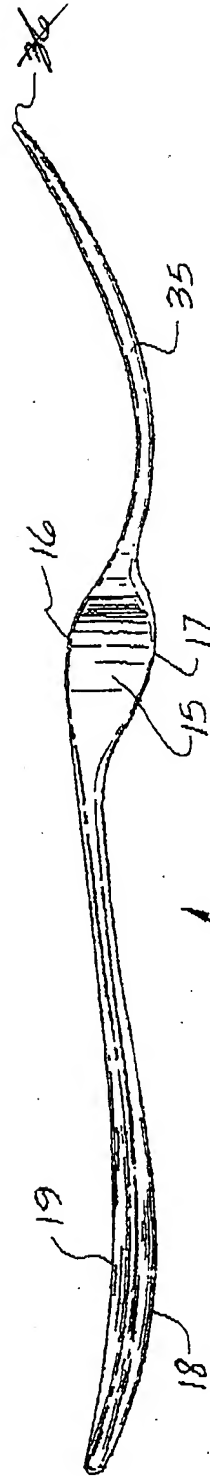
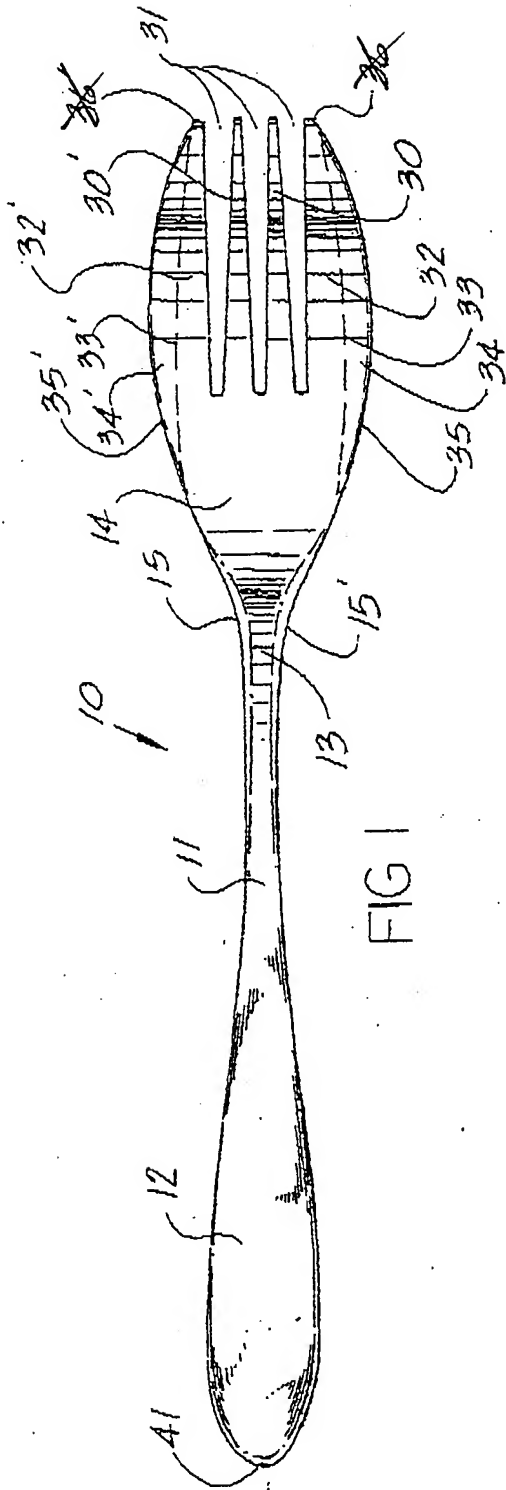
claims 20 and 21 also define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert O. Blinn
P.O. Box 75144
Wichita, KS 67275-0144
Reg. No.: 36,751

1/08/08
Date



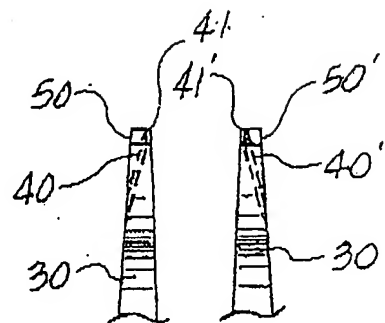
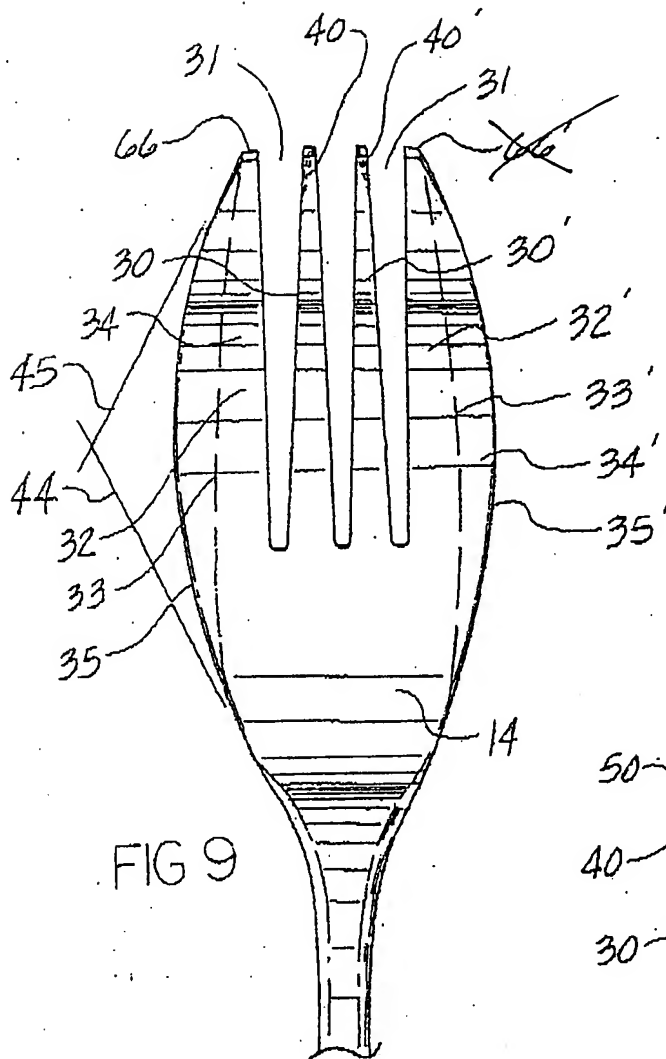


FIG 8